

Recently, I heard a story that former President Jimmy Carter told about Muriel that epitomizes her inherent sense of fairness and decency.

In 1964, when he [Hubert] became the vice-presidential candidate, in Georgia, it wasn't a very popular thing to be for the Johnson-Humphrey slate. . . . In that campaign, Hubert and Muriel came down to south Georgia to Moultrie for a Democratic rally. And because of my mother's loyalty, she was given the honor of picking up Muriel at the airport. And Rosalynn and my mother and Muriel and my sister Gloria went down to Moultrie to attend the rally. Senator Humphrey made a speech, and they had a women's reception for Muriel. And they were riding around that south Georgia town getting ready for the reception. Everybody in town was very excited. And as Muriel approached the site, she said, "Are any black women invited to the reception?"

For a long time no one spoke, and finally my sister said, "I don't know." She knew quite well that they weren't. And Muriel said, "I'm not going in." So, they stopped the car, and my sister Gloria went inside to check and let the hostess know that Muriel was not coming to the reception. But in a few minutes, Gloria came back and said, "Mrs. Humphrey, it's okay." So, she went in and, sure enough, there were several black ladies there at the reception. And Muriel never knew until now that the maids just took off their aprons for the occasion. But that was the first integrated reception in south Georgia, Muriel, and you are responsible for it. (Former President Jimmy Carter at a Washington, D.C. fundraiser in December 1977 to benefit the Hubert Humphrey Institute located at the University of Minnesota.)

A year after Hubert Humphrey died, Muriel married Max Brown, a lifelong Republican whom she met when the two were sixth-graders in South Dakota. She and Max enjoyed

many years of well-deserved retirement together out of the storm of public policy controversies, and tended to the personal joys of their very close, warm family circle.

Hubert H. Humphrey III, known affectionately as "Skip," continued the family tradition of public service, winning election to the Minnesota State Senate, and then as Minnesota's Attorney General. When he won the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party nomination for governor in the Minnesota primary election earlier this month, Muriel was at Skip's side. "Hubert would have been proud," she said after her son's victory.

I offer my heartfelt sympathy to Muriel's husband, her sons Bob, Douglas, and Skip, and her daughter Nancy Solomonson, for their loss. I hope, in their grief, they know that their wife and mother made a profound difference to the State of Minnesota and to a grateful nation. Her love of family, warmth in outreach to others, and tireless teaching by example of the very best in family values will be her everlasting legacy to future generations. It is a privilege to offer my colleagues this brief, but deserved tribute to Muriel Humphrey Brown, who gave so much of herself to enrich the lives of others.

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TRIBUTE TO BARBARA LANE,  
MILWAUKEE'S POLKA QUEEN

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**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 24, 1998*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Milwaukee's Polka Queen, Barbara Lane, on her 35th anniversary as a polka artist, musician and band leader. Ms. Lane will

be honored by her many fans and admirers from throughout the United States with a series of performances and other polka-related events Saturday October 10 and Sunday October 11 held at Milwaukee's south side unofficial polka headquarters, the Blue Canary.

Barbara Lane was crowned Milwaukee's Polka Queen in 1972. She has kept that title every since. Barbara's greatest claim to fame has been her ability to break the gender barrier of the male-dominated polka fraternity. She became the first female polka band leader to perform to a nationwide audience. Her band, known as Barbara and the Karousels, regularly performs throughout the United States from Maryland to Arizona to Las Vegas and has also entertained fans in Europe. No other female-led polka band has performed to such a worldwide audience.

Undoubtedly, a highlight of Barbara Lane's career was her 1997 performance at the Presidential Inaugural parade, Washington, D.C. Her band was the first ever polka band to participate in an inaugural. Over 33 million people watched the performance on worldwide television. While preparing for the Inaugural, Barbara wrote a tribute tune "The White House Polka," which brought her additional nationwide recognition and accolades.

Barbara's other accomplishments include induction into the Cleveland Hall of Fame in 1992 and the much sought-after European-American Heritage Music Award in 1993. She is currently a nominee for the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award for 1998 and the 1998 Band of the Year Award.

Best wishes, Barbara, as you are honored the weekend of October 10th. keep up the excellent work of entertaining the young and young at heart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the nation and the world